(a) the number of applications seeking mobile connection from B.S.N.L. lying pending all over the country;

(b) the number of mobile towers proposed by B.S.N.L. in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh and by when these would be set up; and

(c) the number of places in Bulandshahr district where proposal for setting up of mobile towers or telecom centres are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) As a policy Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), has not been maintaining waiting list; however, in some of the States where waiting list was authorized to be maintained, the total number of applications pending with BSNL for prepaid mobile connections as on 31.7.2005 is 13,22,172.

(b) and (c) BSNL is in the process of expanding its mobile services to ten additional towns apart from expansion of existing towns where coverage exists. Accordingly, in Bulandshahr telecom district seven of the thirty towers planned are already operational and the remaining towers are expected to be available progressively from October 2005 and completed during the current financial year.

Talent from rural areas in sports

†*430. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of sufficient means of sports in the rural areas, the country is deprived of emerging talents;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to tap the talents from the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a State subject under the Constitution. Promotion of Sports at State level is mainly the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India, through its own schemes and Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments for developing sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is also implementing a scheme of 'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' under which Rural Sports Programme is one of the components. This programme being implemented through Sports Authority of India (SAI), provides for grant-in-aid for organizing District level, State level and National level tournaments.

(c) to (e) Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes to groom budding talent so as to achieve excellence at State/National/International level:—

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC):—Keeping in view the need to promote sports in remote and rural areas and to provide an opportunity to the village children to undergo sports training, 49 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been adopted and 464 trainees are being imparted training in different disciplines. 175 Wrestlers are being imparted training in 16 akharas all over the India. SAI under its NSTC Scheme have adopted 27 schools all over the country in which 583 inmates are being imparted training.

2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC):—With a view to utilize the disciplined atmosphere of Army and infrastructure available, Army Boys Sports Company Scheme was introduced in association with Army in which children are identified in the age group of 8 to 14 and admitted in the Scheme. The identified trainees are absorbed in the Army. At present, there are 18 ABSC with strength of 738.

3. Special Area Games (SAG):—Sports Authority of India (SAI) with the objective to preserve the culture of people of remote, rural, tribal, coastal, hilly areas and bringing them into the mainstream of Indian life without destroying their cultural traditions, way of life or customs, launched a Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme. During the year 2004-05, under this Scheme, 1388 trainees were imparted training in 16 Centres all over India.

4. SAI Training Centres (STC):—In order to groom the junior level sports persons in the age group of 14 to 21, with the assistance of State Governments, SAI Training Centres are established in which the State Governments need to provide with all the infrastructure facilities. SAI is running the scheme by providing scientific training to the selected trainees.

At present, there are 57 SAI Training Centres giving training in 28 disciplines all over the country.

Funds allocated to sports schools

†*431. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the sports schools during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the names of schools which have utilised full amount and whether the reasons for not spending the amount have been reviewed in case the above said amount has not been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to fund sports schools in the country. As such, no annual allocation is made for this purpose. However, under the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme of Sports Authority of India (SAI) schools are adopted by SAI for scientific training of talented children in the age groups of 8 to 24.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of child labour

*432. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai Police rescued more than 250 children by raiding the premises of SSI units where they were engaged as labour;

(b) if so, the deails thereof including those of the SSI units detected which had engaged child labour and since when;

(c) the current status of the child labourers, so rescued;

(d) the finding of survey conducted, if any, of SSI and other units for detection of child labour; and

(e) the details of the policy, if any, for rehabilitation and subsistence of child labour after their disengagement from occupations?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.